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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

AUG 18 2016

EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

RE: Harbor Comments

I am an anthropologist and Navy League member who has lived in Portland for 28 years. I would like to see a less expensive and less invasive approach to cleaning up the Portland Harbor Superfund site. The present plan is based on outdated information and ignores more recent evidence that the Willamette River has made significant progress decontaminating itself. Arbitrarily digging up buried contaminants means taking the risk that these contaminants will be released back into the river where they can again threaten the residents and wildlife of Portland. The Army Corps of Engineers exists for projects like this, and we should accept their recommendation to let nature do as much of the work as possible, intervening only as much as necessary.

This plan is likely to cost over a billion dollars, a lot of money to spend on a plan that won't work. This could mean higher taxes and higher utility bills, and in both cases, mine are already far too high. I certainly don't want to pay any more. Even worse, keeping dredging machinery in virtually constant operation for years means the river will be closed most of the time. A good friend of mine runs the Portland Kayak Company, and his business would be completely finished if that happened. Indeed, it would mean disaster for Portland's entire shipping industry.

In the end, the cost for this project shouldn't be placed on the peoples' backs. However, if the residents are going to have to foot the bill for this project, then we should be able to oppose plans that would negatively affect our community, as this current proposal will. The proposal needs to be adjusted considerably before it is implemented, relying more on natural filtration, scaling back the costs, and working around local business concerns.

Sincerely,

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Portland, OR 97221